

Message Text

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ACTION EA-14

INFO OCT-01 EUR-25 ISO-00 CIAE-00 PM-07 H-03 INR-10 L-03

NSAE-00 NSC-10 PA-04 RSC-01 PRS-01 SPC-03 SS-20

USIA-15 SAM-01 DRC-01 /119 W
----- 080722

R 010959Z MAR 74

FM AMEMBASSY MANILA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 1475

INFO AMEMBASSY BANGKOK

AMEMBASSY CANBERRA

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY WELLINGTON

CINCPAC HONOLULU HI

USMILADREP SMPO SEATO BANGKOK

JCA/JCS WASHDC

C O N F I D E N T I A L MANILA 2414

CINCPAC FOR POLADE

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: MARR, MOPS, SEATO, RP, TH, UK, AS, NZ

SUBJECT: SEATO MILITARY EXERCISE - PX 51

REF: STATE 036159

1. OPERATION PROPOSED BY SEATO EXERCISE PLANNING GROUP
IS DESCRIBED BY AFP AS AIRBORNE/AIR-LANDED/AMPHIBIOUS
EXERCISE SUPPORTING A COUNTER OFFENSIVE AGAINST
TERRITORY OF VITAL INTEREST TO SEATO WHICH WAS TAKEN BY
AGGRESSOR IN INITIAL OFFENSIVE

2. FROM POINT OF VIEW OF GOP SENSITIVITIES AND US-PHIL
RELATIONSHIPS, PX-51 INVOLVES NO UNACCEPTABLE POLITICAL
RISKS IF LOCATION OF EXERCISE IN PHILIPPINES CAREFULLY
CHOSEN. CONTINUING CONFLICT IN MUSLIM SOUTH MILITATES
AGAINST CHOICE OF SITES ON PALAWAN OR MINDANAO, THOUGH
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WE ARE AWARE THAT THESE LOCATIONS UNDER CONSIDERATION

BY AFP MINDORO ISLAND, WHERE BOTH SEATO (1970) AND US-PHIL BILATERAL (1973) AMPHIBIOUS LANDING EXERCISES HAVE BEEN HELD IN PAST, PROBABLY MOST ACCEPTABLE WEST COAST SITE.

3. RECENT UPROAR OVER PARACELS AND SPRATLYS MIGHT AFFECT ADVISABILITY OF ANY WEST COAST EXERCISE. GOP TENDED REGARD GVN REQUEST FOR SEATO CONSULTATIONS ON PARACELS FAVORABLY AND MAY WELL BE THINKING OF USING EXERCISE FOR ITS POSSIBLE DETERRENT EFFECT ON PRC. IF WE WISH TO AVOID CONCERN TO PRC, WE MAY WISH TO RECOMMEND HOLDING EXERCISE ON EAST COAST OF PHILIPPINES OR IN INTERNAL SIBUYAN OR VISAYAN SEAS RATHER THAN WEST COAST WHICH IS NEARER GOP'S "FREEDOMLAND."

4. WHILE THERE ARE SUITABLE EAST COAST SITES, PHIL NAVY SOURCE STATES EXERCISE WOULD HAVE TO BE SCHEDULED NO LATER IN YEAR THAN JUNE TO AVOID INHOSPITABLE WEATHER CONDITIONS.

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Message Attributes

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